

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: October 9, 2007

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 6

CONSENT:

REGULAR: X

CLOSED SESSION:
(Confidential)

ACTION: X

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: Approve Increased Speeding Fines for Sheffield Drive.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve an amendment to the City Code to add Sheffield Drive as a speed zone per Section 25-193.1 of City Code and Section 46.2-878.2 of Virginia Code.

SUMMARY: In February, 2006 Council approved the amendment to City Code allowing the designation of speed zones within residential neighborhoods. These speed zones specify that the minimum fines will be \$200 plus any existing fines for speeding. According to State Code, these zones have to be properly designated with the fines clearly posted. If Council approves this resolution, Community Development will need to install additional signs underneath the existing speed limit signs informing motorists about the additional penalty. Melinda Drive, Alta Lane and Del Ray circle have previously been designated.

A public meeting was held on July 24, 2007 to discuss traffic calming options with the residents of Sheffield Drive with approximately 20 residents attending. At this meeting, it was determined that the project would be divided into two phases. The first phase would be implementing increased fines for speeding and the second phase would be potentially implementing physical improvements. To implement Phase 1, two letters were sent out to the residents (see attachments). The first letter, sent August 1, 2007 surveyed the resident to determine if at least 66% of all residents wanted the increased speeding fine zone and the second letter sent on September 28, 2007, informed the neighborhood that we received over 66% support to install the signs. Both letters was sent to all residents on Sheffield Drive and Regent Place.

PRIOR ACTION(S):

The Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (NTMP) was approved on December 13, 2005.
The amendment to City Code for Speeding Fines was approved February 14, 2006.

FISCAL IMPACT: Speeding ticket proceeds could increase due to increased fines. Negligible increase due to additional signage requirements.

CONTACT(S):

Lee Newland, 455-3947
Gerry Harter, 455-3935
Numan Franklin 455-3931

ATTACHMENT(S):

Letter sent to residents informing them of speed zone designation; Proposed Ordinance

REVIEWED BY: lkp

August 1, 2007

RE: Traffic Calming on Sheffield Drive

Dear Residents,

In April of this year, I met with the Sheffield Drive Neighborhood Traffic Management Petitioner to discuss potential traffic calming measures for Sheffield Drive. During the meeting we talked about the current traffic flow and available traffic calming devices that could possibly slow down traffic and/or decrease the traffic on Sheffield Drive. But most importantly, we decided to conduct a traffic study to determine if Sheffield Drive warrants traffic calming. As you know, this study was implemented and the results supported a need for a traffic calming plan.

On July 24, 2007 we held a neighborhood meeting to present some traffic calming options to you and seek your opinions on how we should proceed. After reviewing the options and with some discussions, you decided to poll your neighborhood to see if 66% or more will support installing increase fine signs. This installation will carry a minimum \$200 fine for speeding on Sheffield Drive.

If you will, please check below your position, and then mail this letter to Numan Franklin, 900 Church Street, Lynchburg VA 24504.

I SUPPORT INSTALLING INCREASE FINE SIGNS

I DO NOT SUPPORT INSTALLING INCREASE FINE SIGNS

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and hope to receive your response soon. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at 434-455-3931.

Sincerely,

Numan Franklin
Neighborhood Project Coordinator

CC: Charlene Montford – Director of Community Development
Lee Newland, P.E. – Director of Engineering
Gerry Harter, P. E. - Traffic Engineer

September 28, 2007

Residents Sheffield Drive and Regent Place

RE: Increased Speeding Fines on Sheffield Drive

Dear Resident;

As you are aware, Sheffield Drive residents petitioned the City to implement traffic calming measures on Sheffield Drive, and shortly afterwards, decided during a neighborhood meeting to poll the neighborhood for support to install increased fine speed limit signs. This step is being considered as phase 1 of a potential two (2) phase project. Phase 1 of this project will be to increase the speeding fines on Sheffield Drive; and Phase 2 of the project will be to meet with the neighborhood to discuss actual physical measures in the street such as speed tables, traffic circles and other potential traffic calming devices if Phase 1 is proven to be ineffective.

According to policy, the City needed 66% support from the neighborhood before the increased fine speed limit signs could be installed. The neighborhood's response exceeded the 66% required support. Now the City is beginning to move forward with Phase 1, which is to install the increase fine signs.

The increased speeding fine will be an additional \$200 added to the regular speeding ticket fines. This additional fine will be posted beneath the existing speed limit signs. The larger fine will deter drivers from speeding through the neighborhood. It is anticipated that the increased fines will be implemented in November after City Council has had a chance to review the proposal. Authority for the increased speeding fines is given under Section 25-193.1 of City Code and Section 46.2-878.2 of Virginia Code.

The City believes that this is an appropriate first step to minimize speeders through your neighborhood. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at 434-455-3931 or you can go to our web site and learn more about the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) at the address below:

http://www.lynchburgva.gov/docs/traffic_calming_rev_lynchburg_rev_dec_final.pdf.

Sincerely

Numan Franklin
Neighborhood Project Coordinator

CC: Gerry Harter
Lee Newland
Charles Bennet

ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REENACT THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG, 1981, BY ADDING THERETO A NEW ROAD DESIGNATION (SHEFFIELD DRIVE) TO SECTION 25-193.1, RELATING TO THE PLACEMENT OF MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT SIGNS IN CERTAIN RESIDENCE DISTRICTS AND THE FINE FOR EXCEEDING THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT IN POSTED RESIDENCE DISTRICTS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG:

1. That Section 25-193.1 of the Code of the City of Lynchburg be, and the same is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 25-193.1. Posting of speed limits in certain enumerated residence districts and the fine for exceeding the maximum speed limit in a posted residence district.

(a) Pursuant to section 46.2-878.2 of the Code of Virginia, the maximum speed limits shall be indicated by appropriately placed signs in the following enumerated resident districts (as adopted by City Council by separate ordinance):

- (1) Melinda Drive
- (2) Alta Lane
- (3) Del Ray Circle
- (4) Sheffield Drive

(b) When the maximum speed limit for a residence district is indicated by appropriately placed signs displaying the maximum speed limit, any person exceeding such speed limit shall be guilty of a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), in addition to other penalties provided by law. No portion of the fine shall be suspended unless the court orders twenty (20) hours of community service.

2. That this ordinance shall become effective on its passage.

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

127L